CONSECRATION SERVICE

GWYNEDD

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Church of the Messiah

GWYNEDD

PENNSYLVANIA

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ORDER OF SERVICE

FOR

THE CONSECRATION

OF

The Memorial Transept, Vestry Room and Memorials

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Meeting of Norristown Convocation

THURSDAY

October the Twenty-fifth

1906

The Form of Consecration

Processional Hymn 491

The Church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is His new creation
By water and the word:
From heaven He came and sought her
To be His holy Bride;
With His own blood He bought her,
And for her life He died.

Elect from every nation,
Yet one o'er all the earth,
Her charter of salvation,
One Lord, one Faith, one Birth;
One holy name she blesses,
Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses,
With every grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder
Men see her sore oppress,
By schisms rent asunder,
By heresies distrest;
Yet saints their watch are keeping,
Their cry goes up "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping
Shall be the morn of song.

'Mid toil and tribulation,
And tumult of her war
She waits the consumation
Of peace for evermore;
Till with the vision glorious
Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great Church victorious
Shall be the Church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union
With God the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion
With those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we
Like them the meek and lowly,
On high may dwell with Thee.

THE REQUEST

RIGHT Reverend Father in God, in the name and on the behalf of the Rector, Church Wardens, Vestrymen, and of the Congregation of the Church of the Messiah, I request you to bless and consecrate this Memorial Transept and Window, the Memorial Litany Desk, the Vestry Room and all improvements and additions which have been made to this Church for the worship of Almighty God.

¶ The Bishop, standing up and turning to the Congregation, shall say:

DEARLY beloved in the Lord; for as much as devout and holy men, as well under the Law as under the Gospel, moved either by the express command of God, or by the secret inspiration of the blessed Spirit, and acting agreeably to their own reason and sense of the natural decency of things, have erected houses for the public worship of God, and separated them from all unhallowed, worldly, and common uses, in order to fill men's minds with greater reverence for his glorious Majesty, and affect their hearts with more devotion and humility in his service; which pious works have been approved of and graciously accepted by our heavenly Father: Let us not doubt but that He will also favorably approve our godly purpose of setting apart this place in solemn manner, for the performance of the several offices of religious worship, and let us faithfully and devoutly beg His blessing on this our undertaking.

¶ Then the Bishop, kneeling, shall say the following Prayer:

O ETERNAL GOD, mighty in power, and of majesty incomprehensible, whom the heaven of heavens cannot contain, much less the walls of temples made with hands; and who yet hast been graciously pleased to promise Thy especial presence, wherever two or three of Thy faithful servants shall assemble in Thy name, to offer up their praises and supplication unto Thee; vouchsafe, O Lord, to be present with us, who are here gathered together with all humility and readiness of heart, to consecrate this place to the honor of Thy great name; separating it henceforth from all unhallowed, ordinary and common uses; and dedicating it to Thy service, for reading Thy holy Word, for celebrating Thy holy Sacraments, for offering to Thy glorious Majesty the sacrifices of prayer and thanksgiving, for blessing Thy people in Thy name, and for all other holy offices; accept, O Lord, this service at our hands, and bless it with such success as may tend most to Thy glory, and the furtherance of our happiness both temporal and spiritual; through Jesus Christ our blessed Lord and Saviour. *Amen.*

¶ After this the Bishop shall stand up, and, turning his face towards the Congregation, shall say:

REGARD, O Lord, the supplications of Thy servants, and grant that whosoever shall be dedicated to Thee in this house by baptism, may be sanctified by the Holy Ghost, delivered from Thy wrath and eternal death, and received as a living member of Christ's Church, and may ever remain in the number of Thy faithful children. *Amen.*

Grant, O Lord, that they who at this place shall in their own persons renew the promises and vows of their baptism, and be confirmed by the Bishop, may receive such a measure of Thy Holy Spirit that they may be enabled faithfully to fulfill the same, and grow in grace unto their lives' end. *Amen.*

Grant, we beseech Thee, blessed Lord, that whosoever shall draw near to Thee in this place, to give Thee thanks for the benefits which they have received at Thy hands, to set forth Thy most worthy praise, to confess their sins unto Thee, and to ask such things as are requisite and necessary, as well for the body as for the soul, may do it with such steadiness of faith, and with such seriousness, affection and devotion of mind, that Thou mayest accept their bounden duty and service, and vouchsafe to give whatever in Thy infinite wisdom Thou shalt see to be most expedient for them. All which we beg for Jesus Christ's sake, our most blessed Lord and Saviour. *Amen.*

BLESSED be Thy name, O Lord, that it hath pleased Thee to put it into the hearts of Thy servants to appropriate and devote this house to Thy honor and worship; and grant that all who shall enjoy the benefit of this pious work may show forth their thankfulness by making a right use of it, to the glory of Thy blessed name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ After this, the Minister appointed is to read the Service for the day.

Hymn 295

Thy Temple is not made with hands,
'Tis lit by many a golden star;
The purple heights of mountain lands
Its everlasting pillars are.

Thee, highest heaven cannot contain,
Great Lord of earth, and sky, and sea!
Yet enter in, and bless the fane
Adoring hands have reared for Thee.

For welcome to the babe new-born, [head,
For strengthening hands on bended
For blessings on the marriage morn, [dead
And sweet words whispered o'er the

For food divine to souls sufficed, [press,
For words that warn, for prayers that
Arise and enter in, O Christ! [bless.
And with Thy presence all things

So praise to Thy great Name shall rise
Up from these walls, this sacred floor,
Who made, Who saves, Who sanctifies,
Forever and for evermore.

¶ The Minister shall begin the Morning Prayer by reading the following Sentence of Scripture:

The Lord is in His holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before Him. HAB. ii. 20.

The Lord's Prayer and Versicles . . *Service*

Venite, exultemus Domino . . *Chant 176*

PSALM LXXXIV.

O HOW amiable are Thy dwellings, thou Lord of hosts!
2. My soul hath a desire and longing to enter into the courts of the Lord: my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
3. Yea, the sparrow hath found her an house, and the swallow a nest, where she may lay her young: even Thy altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.
4. Blessed are they that dwell in Thy house: they will be always praising Thee.
5. Blessed is the man whose strength is in Thee: in whose heart are Thy ways.
6. Who going through the vale of misery use it for a well: and the pools are filled with water.
7. They will go from strength to strength: and unto the God of gods appeareth every one of them in Sion.
8. O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer: hearken, O God of Jacob.
9. Behold, O God our defender: and look upon the face of Thine anointed.
10. For one day in Thy courts: is better than a thousand.
11. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God: than to dwell in the tents of ungodliness.
12. For the Lord God is a light and defence: the Lord will give grace and worship, and no good thing shall He withhold from them that live a godly life.
13. O Lord God of hosts: blessed is the man that putteth his trust in Thee.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. *Amen.*

PSALM CXXII.

I WAS glad when they said unto me: We will go into the house of the Lord.
2. Our feet shall stand in Thy gates: O Jerusalem.
3. Jerusalem is built as a city: that is at unity in itself.
4. For thither the tribes go up, even the tribes of the Lord: to testify unto Israel, to give thanks unto the name of the Lord.
5. For there is the seat of judgment: even the seat of the house of David.
6. O pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love Thee.
7. Peace be within Thy walls: and plenteousness within Thy palaces.
8. For my brethren and companions' sakes: I will wish Thee prosperity.
9. Yea, because of the house of the Lord our God: I will seek to do Thee good.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. *Amen.*

PSALM CXXXII.

LORD, remember David: and all his trouble.
2. How he sware unto the Lord: and vowed a vow unto the Almighty God of Jacob.
3. I will not come within the tabernacle of mine house: nor climb up into my bed;
4. I will not suffer mine eyes to sleep, nor mine eyelids to slumber: neither the temples of my head to take any rest;
5. Until I find out a place for the temple of the Lord: an habitation for the Mighty God of Jacob.
6. Lo, we heard of the same at Ephrata: and found it in the wood.

7. We will go into His tabernacle: and fall low on our knees before His foot-stool.

8. Arise. O Lord, into Thy resting place: Thou, and the ark of Thy strength.

9. Let Thy priests be clothed with righteousness: and let Thy saints sing with joyfulness.

10. For Thy servant David's sake: turn not away the presence of Thine anointed.

11. The Lord hath made a faithful oath unto David: and He shall not shrink from it.

12. Of the fruit of Thy body: shall I set upon Thy seat.

13. If thy children will keep My covenant, and My testimonies that I shall learn them: their children also shall sit upon thy seat for ever more.

14. For the Lord hath chosen Sion to be an habitation for Himself: He hath longed for her.

15. This shall be My rest for ever: here will I dwell, for I have a delight therein.

16. I will bless her victuals with increase: and will satisfy her poor with bread.

17. I will deck her priests with health: and her saints shall rejoice and sing.

18. There shall I make the horn of David to flourish: I have ordained a lantern for Mine anointed.

19. As for his enemies, I shall clothe them with shame: but upon himself shall his crown flourish.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. *Amen.*

¶ Then shall be read the First Lesson.

I Kings viii. verse 22 to verse 63.

Te Deum Laudamus . . . *Chant 59*

¶ Then shall be read in like manner the Second Lesson.

Hebrews x. verse 19 to verse 26.

Jubilate Deo . . . *Oxford Chant*

The Nicene Creed, Versicles and Prayers . .

The Collect . . .

The Epistle II Cor. vi. 14

The Gospel St. John, ii. 13

Hymn 483 . . .

Christ is made the sure foundation,
  Christ the head and corner-stone,
Chosen of the Lord, and precious,
  Binding all the Church in one;
Holy Sion's help forever,
  And her confidence alone.

All that dedicated city,
  Dearly loved of God on high,
In exultant jubilation
  Pours perpetual melody;
God the One in Three adoring
  In glad hymns eternally.

To this temple, where we call Thee,
  Come, O Lord of Hosts, to-day:
With Thy wonted loving kindness,
  Hear Thy servants as they pray;
And Thy fullest benediction
  Shed within its walls alway.

Here vouchsafe to all Thy servants
  What they ask of Thee to gain,
What they gain from Thee, forever
  With the blessed to retain,
And hereafter in Thy glory
  Evermore with Thee to reign.

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Sermon, by the RIGHT REVEREND ALEXANDER MACKAY-SMITH, D. D.,
BISHOP COADJUTOR OF PENNSYLVANIA

Offertory Hymn 505

Fight the good fight with all thy might,
Christ is thy strength, and Christ thy right;
Lay hold on life, and it shall be
Thy joy and crown eternally.

Run the straight race through God's good grace.
Lift up thine eyes, and seek His face;
Life with its way before us lies,
Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.

Cast care aside, lean on thy Guide;
His boundless mercy will provide;
Trust, and thy trusting soul shall prove
Christ is its life, and Christ its love.

Faint not nor fear, His arms are near;
He changeth not, and thou art dear;
Only believe, and thou shalt see
That Christ is all in all to thee.

Sanctus *Chant 427*

Hymn 227

O Saving Victim, opening wide
The gate of heaven to man below,
Our foes press on from every side,
Thine aid supply, Thy strength bestow.

All praise and thanks to Thee ascend
For evermore, blest One in Three;
Oh, grant us life that shall not end,
In our true native land with Thee.

Gloria in Excelsis *Old Chant*

¶ For the last Collect, immediately before the final Blessing, the Bishop shall say this Prayer:

BLESSED be Thy name, O Lord God, for that it hath pleased Thee to have Thy habitation among the sons of men, and to dwell in the midst of the assembly of the saints upon the earth; grant, we beseech Thee, that in this place now set apart to Thy service, Thy holy name may be worshipped in truth and purity through all generations; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Blessing

Recessional Hymn 520

Rejoice, ye pure in heart!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!
Your glorious banner wave on high,
The cross of Christ your King!

Bright youth, and snow-crowned age,
Strong men and maidens meek:
Raise high your free, exulting song!
God's wondrous praises, speak!

With all the angel choirs,
With all the saints of earth,
Pour out the strains of joy and bliss,
True rapture, noblest mirth!

Your clear hosannas raise,
And alleluias loud!
Whilst answering echoes upward float,
Like wreaths of incense cloud.

Yes, on through life's long path!
Still chanting as ye go;
From youth to age, by night and day,
In gladness and in woe.

Still lift your standard high!
Still march in firm array!
As warriors through the darkness toil,
Till dawns the golden day!

At last the march shall end;
The wearied ones shall rest;
The pilgrims find their Father's house,
Jerusalem the blest.

Then on, ye pure in heart!
Rejoice, give thanks and sing!
Your glorious banner wave on high,
The cross of Christ your King!

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